

Duel of Southern Generals.

Killing of Walker by Marmaduke and its Effect on Confederate Fortunes.

"A duel between two Confederate generals, almost in the midst of an important engagement, in the early stages of the civil war, had something to do with the final collapse of the Southern cause," said an Ex-Confederate after his return from the Davis and J. E. B. Stuart memorial celebrations in Richmond. "We were not as united as the new generation would have you believe," he is quoted as saying by the Washington Post.

"There was always a misunderstanding between the Richmond Government and the Trans-Mississippi department. Early in the conflict I was sent to Arkansas to learn the cause of the trouble in the leadership.

"Five men whose names later became a part of the history of the cause, were at variance at a time when unity was essential. These men were Sterlin, Price, Marmaduke, Walker, Holmes and Fagan. Price was the idol of the Missouri troops. Marmaduke was a born soldier. Walker was a martinet. Holmes was uncertain in judgment. Fagan was a good fighter when he was discreetly directed.

"When I reached Arkansas these five men were before Helena for the purpose of wrestling it from the enemy. It was a strategic position at the time. It is not necessary to go into details of the story. The point is that the attack failed.

"It was a blow to the Richmond Government early in the cause. The failure lay not with the soldiers, but with the leader. Holmes had planned the fight. Events showed that he had no conception of the strength of the fortifications of the enemy or of the enemy's numbers.

"After the failure dissensions among the leaders increased. This was noticeably the case between Walker and Marmaduke.

"If I remember correctly Walker ranked Marmaduke. In one of the movements Walker had ordered the troops under his command to retreat. To Marmaduke was given the post of danger—covering the retreat. He was assured that at a certain point he would be re-enforced by Walker.

"It was important that he should have this aid. When he arrived at the point not a man, save his own division, was to be seen. Not only that, but Walker had failed to communicate with him. Marmaduke extricated himself from the situation by a miracle.

"In several engagements that followed Walker, though still in command, held himself aloof from Marmaduke. The two men hated each other personally, but Marmaduke was enough of a soldier to let that pass at the time. Walker was sullen and sulky.

"Marmaduke sent an aide to ask Walker for orders. Walker refused to answer because, as he said, it was unmilitary for a superior officer to receive a verbal message from an inferior. Mar-

maduke reduced his request to writing and sent it. Walker never replied.

"After the troops had been rescued from the situation, for that is what it amounted to, Marmaduke, smarting under the conduct of Walker, informed Walker's superior of existing conditions and demanded that his troops be withdrawn from Walker's command. Failing in this Marmaduke said his resignation was ready.

"This was an interesting condition, at such a time. I don't think it had its counterpart during the remainder of the war.

"Marmaduke's attitude widened the breach. Walker remained obdurate. Then came the climax.

"Marmaduke challenged Walker. The latter accepted. The affair was known only to a few. The meeting took place almost within sight of the soldiers.

"Marmaduke was an expert marksman. He killed his adversary the first shot. Think of such a thing at such a time!

"Marmaduke and his seconds were promptly arrested. Only for Walker's unpopularity Marmaduke would have been court-martialed. Through the influence of officials high in authority the affair was dropped. But it took time to restore the army to discipline. And when the time came the enemy had secured advantages which were maintained throughout the war.

"The Richmond Government was charged with indifference to the situation beyond the Mississippi. It was due very largely to the lack of unity among the leaders of the West.

"By the time they had come to their senses the damage had been done. Many crimes have been ascribed to the South's defeat. One of them, not generally known, I have stated.

"All the particulars in the Walker-Marmaduke duel are dead with the exception of Marmaduke's chief second, Col. John C. Moore. He is, or was a year ago, still living in Kansas City."

Poor Crops in South West.

Rock Hill Herald: Mr. Jordan Strait, son of Mrs. M. A. Strait, living a few miles south west of the city, returned home last week from Arkansas, where he has been for several years. Mr. Strait has also traveled through portions of Texas and several other western states this year and he reports that the crops in Arkansas and all along the Mississippi and Arkansas rivers are very poor indeed and that numbers of farmers have practically abandoned their crops and are seeking employment on public works. It rained so much in the Spring that the farmers were very late planting and on account of bad stands there was much replanting to do. The rains continued and crops were not worked out as they are here and are unusually small for the time of the year. Mr. Strait likes the West all right but has decided that he will make his home in South Carolina again.

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